

Method for producing dinitrotoluene

Abstract

- 5 The present invention provides a process for preparing dinitrotoluene, comprising the steps of
- 10 a) reacting toluene with nitric acid in the presence of sulfuric acid to give mononitrotoluene,
 - b) separating the reaction product from step a) into an organic phase comprising mononitrotoluene and an aqueous phase comprising sulfuric acid,
 - 15 c) reacting the organic phase comprising mononitrotoluene with nitric acid in the presence of sulfuric acid to give dinitrotoluene,
 - d) separating the reaction product from step c) into an organic phase comprising dinitrotoluene and an aqueous phase comprising sulfuric acid,
- 20 wherein the reaction product from step a) has a content of toluene of from 3.0 to 8% by weight, based on the organic phase, and a content of nitric acid of from 0.1 to 1.2% by weight, based on the aqueous phase, and the phase separation in step b) is effected in such a way that further reaction of the toluene with the nitric acid is prevented.